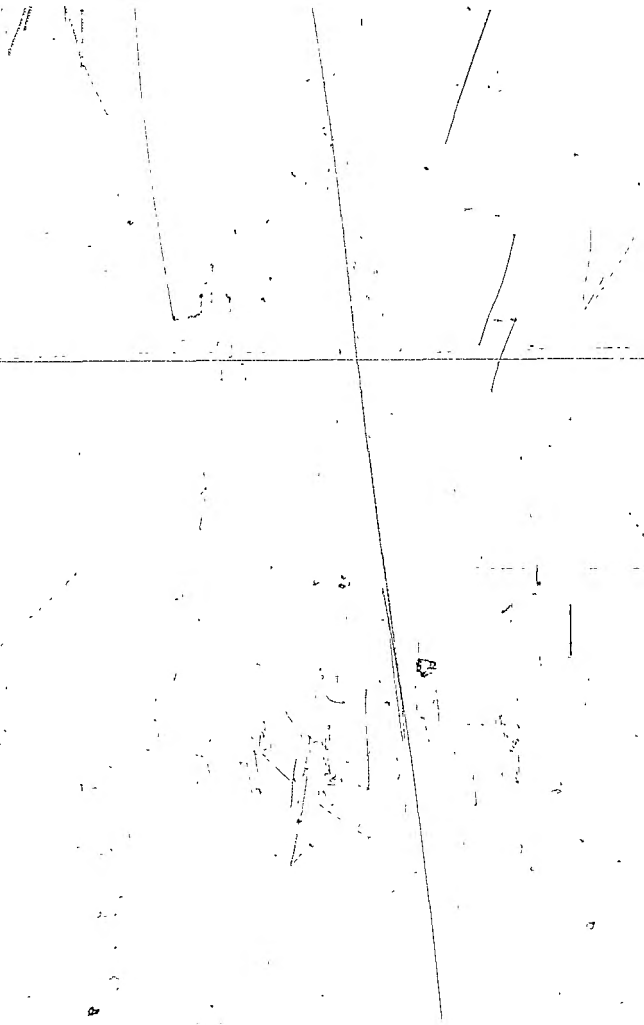


Map
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The Last of the Buffalo



THE LAST OF THE BUFFALO

COMPRISING

A HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO HERD OF THE
FLATHEAD RESERVATION

AND

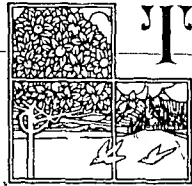
AN ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT ROUND UP

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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Winnipeg

HISTORY OF THE BUFFALO HERD OF THE FLATHEAD



THE story of how the buffalo were actually saved from impending extinction by the upbuilding of the herd of the Flathead by Messrs. Allard and Pablo is an interesting one. Like many great achievements it had a very small beginning; for only a mere fortunate circumstance—or was it a decree of Dame Nature for the preservation of one of her noblest animals—rescued the buffalo from the fate of the Great Auk. Strange to say the nucleus of the magnificent herd of 600 head which has been secured to Canada through a fortunate coup of its government was originally obtained from this country; so that in the purchase of the herd Canada is but receiving back, like bread cast upon the waters, the multiplication of the animals which should never have been permitted to leave the confines of her territory.

The actual foundation of the Flathead herd dates away back to the spring of the year 1873 or 1874, when Walking Coyote, a Pend d'Oreille Indian, commonly known on the reservation of his people as Samuel, was fortunate enough to capture four little buffalo calves—two bulls and two heifers—and these formed the humble beginning of the now famous herd.

Coyote, together with his squaw and step-son, had been wintering with the Peigan Indians on the Milk River close to the international boundary, and near where the town of Buffalo, Mont. now stands. During a hunting expedition of which Samuel was a member, the four calves were cut out of a great herd, and in accordance with a peculiar characteristic of the buffalo, often noted by old plainsmen, which is pathetic to observe, followed the horses of the hunters who had either slain or separated their mothers from them. Next spring, Walking Coyote took his four strange little proteges to St. Ignatius mission, the centre of the Flathead reservation, the calves implicitly following the ponies across the Rocky Mountains to their future home. They were then unusually tame and became real pets, as well as objects of interest around the mission. When the heifers were four years old each had a calf. From that time on they increased slowly year by year, until in 1884 they numbered thirteen head, and their Indian owner, finding them too great a tax on his resources, decided to dispose of them. Mr. D. McDonald, Hudson's Bay trader on the Flathead and the last man to represent the famous old company in the Western States, entered into negotiations to purchase the buffalo; but at this juncture C. A. Allard, who was then ranching on the reservation

became impressed with the great possibility of profitable investment in this small herd of what was then regarded as practically an extinct animal. Allard was a very shrewd, far-seeing, capable business man, quick to grasp such an opportunity as this afforded, and realized that within a few years the buffalo would be invaluable as specimens. He succeeded in interesting his fellow-rancher and friend of his boyhood, Michel Pablo, in his project, and they entered into partnership and bought ten of Walking Coyote's herd of thirteen buffalo as a speculation, paying \$250 per head for them. This fortunate circumstance probably saved the buffalo from extinction, for not only did the herd increase very rapidly under their capable supervision till it became the most numerous in the world, but the majority of specimens and individual collections, including the larger number of those in the Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, have been secured from this source. The results abundantly justified Mr. Allard's investment.

Melancholy, however, was the fate of Walking Coyote, for after receiving his pay for the herd, he went to Missoula, and after a short season of dissipation, was found dead under a bridge there. Such was the end of the real founder of the great buffalo herd now known around the world. Several of his relatives still reside around Ravalli, and a sister-in-law was one of the most interested spectators during the loading operations.

A humorous little incident is told concerning Messrs. Pablo and Allard, while they had met beside a stream to finally discuss their project and to arrange for the

payment of the \$2,500 involved. They had to get the actual cash, as Walking Coyote positively refused to accept a cheque. They were busily engaged counting the money, dividing it into piles of \$100, each of which was placed under a stone as a paper weight when a squirrel or mink ran by them. The instinct of the hunter was strong in both, and they immediately gave chase, temporarily forgetting all about the buffalo herd they were buying and the large sum of money they had left lying on the ground. The pursuit of the little animal was hot and vigorous and carried them far from their treasure, before they realized what they had actually done. Then both hurried back in consternation to where the money lay, fortunately to find it safe as yet, but with a lone Indian regarding it with covetous eyes.

In 1893, Messrs. Allard and Pablo bought the remnant of Buffalo Jones' herd at Omaha, securing twenty-six pure bred animals and eighteen hybrids from this source, which infused new blood into their stock. This gave them thirty-six thoroughbreds, from which the herd was built up. It is the descendants of these buffalo which the Canadian Government has secured. A very interesting incident resulted from the purchase of the herd of Buffalo Jones. That gentleman contracted to deliver them at Butte, Mont. He arrived there on a Sunday afternoon with them, and Mr. Allard, who was there to accept the shipment, found he required more money than he actually had with him to secure delivery. In his predicament he turned to Jos. A. Clark, a brother

of Senator Clark, the millionaire copper mine owner, who, before he suddenly amassed a great fortune in the Butte camp, had been engaged as cook on Allard and Pablo's ranch on the reservation, at the time when W. A., afterwards the senator, was driving the mail there. The servants at Clark's mansion did not extend a very cordial reception to Mr. Allard, when he appeared in his picturesque rancher's attire, seeking a personal interview with the millionaire, but the latter was delighted to be in a position to accommodate his former employer, and Mr. Allard's financial difficulty was speedily removed. The animals were then driven overland to the ranch beyond Ravalli, where they remained until purchased by the Canadian government.

It was these animals which gave Manitobans a peculiar interest in the present herd, for they were secured by Buffalo Jones from Col. Bedson, of Stony Mountain, when that gentleman was warden of the penitentiary there. Col. Bedson had purchased them some years previously from the late Hon. James McKay, at one time provincial secretary of Manitoba, by whom the collection was originally made, about the time that Walking Coyote effected his fortunate capture. A portion of the same herd was purchased by Sir Donald A. Smith, now Lord Strathcona, and were presented by him to the Canadian government. With the exception of four, which the city of Winnipeg was allowed to retain after a vigorous protest, the remainder were sent to Banff to grace the National park there, where, under the careful eye of Superintendent Douglas,

they have increased rapidly, until to-day there is a herd of eighty-seven very fine animals. The herd in the Winnipeg suburban park at present is the natural increase of the four this city was allowed to retain, and the three old buffalo at River park, which were purchased from Howard Eaton by the Street Railway Company, are from the same parent stock. Consequently it will be seen how closely allied are the leading herds now in existence.

~~The hybrids, or catalos, were never allowed to mix with the thoroughbreds on the range, but were collected and sequestered on Horse Island in the Flathead Lake, where they were retained for a number of years. The majority of these are remarkably large and fine looking animals, partaking of the appearance of both the buffalo and ordinary cattle.~~

At the time of Mr. Allard's death, in 1896, the herd numbered about 300 head, and these were divided equally between Mr. Pablo and his former partner's estate. The 150 head belonging to the latter were sub-divided equally between his widow, daughters and two sons, one of whom was destined to play such a prominent part in the round up. Mrs. Allard sold her share to Charles Konrad, of Kalispell, Mont., who now has a herd of about sixty head. Howard Eaton bought the shares of the Misses Allard and their brother Charles, and Judge Woodrow, of Missoula, purchased those owned by Joseph Allard, later turning them over to the 101 ranch. Besides these, upwards

of 250 or 300 head have been sold by Mr. Pablo in small consignments, in addition to the herd just purchased by the Canadian Government.

This short record shows conclusively what can be done to perpetuate the buffalo by private enterprise, and that the work of the Indian. In twenty-three years a herd of 36 increased to over thirty times their original number, a fact which proves how rapidly nature may, in a measure, restore the noble animals decimated by wanton slaughter, and removes largely the fear generally felt for the ultimate extinction of the buffalo. If such can be accomplished by private enterprise, simply protecting nature, surely the efforts of a paternal government may be confidently expected to be even more eminently successful, especially when an ideal range has been provided. The herd will undoubtedly increase to a degree which will make the extinction of the

buffalo a very remote possibility. The government has anticipated this, and is providing pasturage ample for 10,000 head.

An idea of the average increase is given by a careful computation that about half the cows give birth to calves every year, while twin calves are evidently not uncommon, inasmuch as in one herd of 100 head corralled last fall, there were two cows each having their two calves at foot, thus affording positive proof of the fecundity of their species.

The percentage of loss among the calves is not heavy, averaging about the same, or even lower, than ordinary range stock. They are invariably strong and vigorous, and instances are known to the herders of a buffalo calf being on its feet thirty seconds after being born and actually showing fight while yet scarcely twenty minutes old.



THE BUFFALO ROUND UP

In the early part of 1906 it was pretty well known that the Canadian government, through the office of the Hon. Frank Oliver, Minister of the Interior at Ottawa, had obtained an option on the largest herd of pure bred buffalo in the world, a deal involving the sum of \$200,000. This transaction was negotiated through the offices of the Canadian National Park at Banff, Alberta, of which Mr. Howard Douglas is the superintendent, and Mr. Alex. Ayotte, of the department of immigration in the state of Montana. These two gentlemen by their untiring efforts brought the deal to a satisfactory consummation, and also shipped almost the entire herd of buffalo into the central part of Alberta from the south-west of Montana, a distance of 1200 miles over five railways, with a loss of less than half of one per cent to the Canadian government.

The last round up, from which the following photos were taken under the most tremendous difficulties, lasted about two months. Some seventy-five cowboys, picked men and horses of the state of Montana, were employed by Messrs. Pablo and Allard, the owners of the buffalo. Many of these fine horses will never be used again as the terrible strain of hard riding foundered them and in some cases even killed.

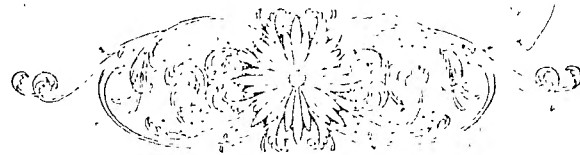
Day after day these untiring men and horses surrounded the wild herds of buffalo in the Flathead Reservations, and three times only in six weeks of daily drives were they successful in getting any of the buffalo to the corrals. The buffalo, when they found themselves being urged from their native pastures, would turn on the riders and in the wildest fury charge for the line, scattering to all parts of this cactus-grown country the dare-devil cowboys.

At last the owners of the buffalo, Messrs. Pablo and Allard, decided to give up the killing of their horses and try another plan. They built a fence especially constructed for them twenty-six miles long from the pastures to the corrals, and along this fence the buffalo were finally driven to the corrals, loaded and shipped by special trains to Alberta.

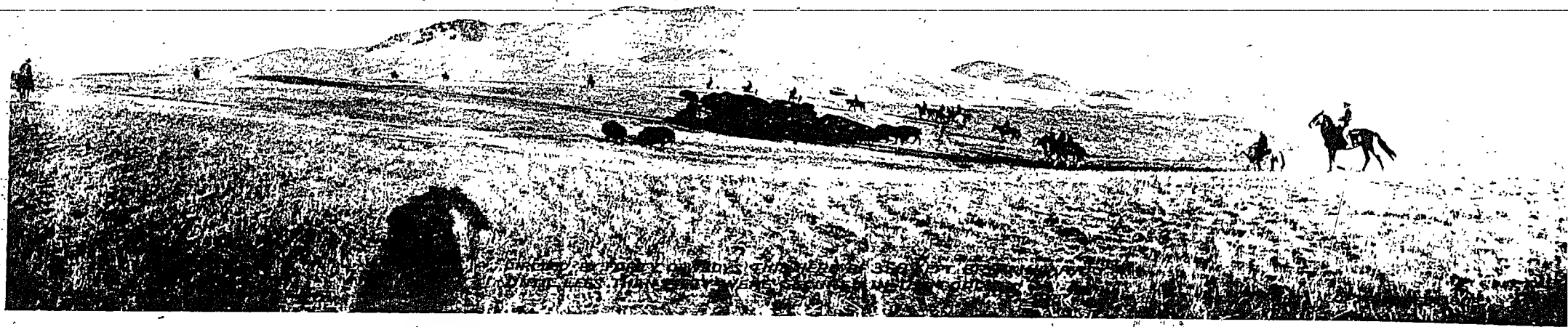
To-day, and for many days to come, the corrals built of heavy 24-inch timber at Ravalli Station in Southern Montana, will remind the people of that state of the wonderful days of the buffalo round-up of 1906, 1907 and 1908. A stranger passing by would perhaps see a dreamy-eyed Mexican cowboy slowly inhaling the smoke of his ever-solacing cigarette with a far-away look in his eyes. If the stranger could

interpret that look into realities he would see stretched across the Flathead Reservation six hundred head of buffalo travelling with the speed of an express train, madly plunging down rocky slopes, across deep ravines, the home of the deadly rattlesnake, through raging torrents and swollen rivers—all of which obstacles counted for little with the Monarch of the Plains. But never daunted, this self-same cowboy with fifty

of his comrades followed in their wake with superhuman energy to the end. It certainly was not the five dollars per day that enticed these men to risk their lives in this maddest of drives, but perhaps it was the love and faith every man in the Great Buffalo Round Up had in the horse that carried him through such impassable places in the arduous task before him, at which any but the stoutest heart must have quailed

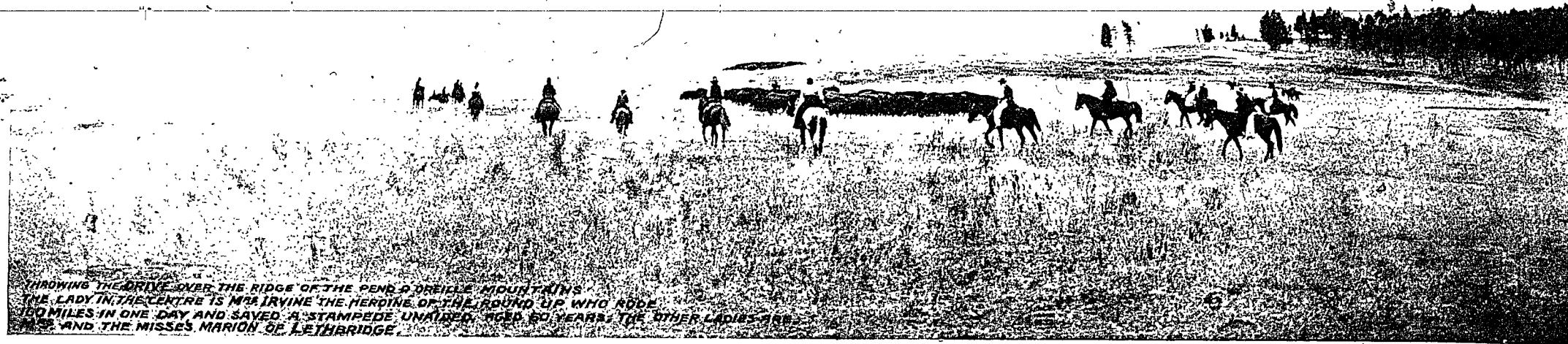








*BUFFALO BEING HERDED ACROSS THE PEND D'OREILLE.
BY COWBOYS.*



THROWING THE DRIVE OVER THE RIDGE OF THE PEND D OREILLE MOUNTAINS
THE LADY IN THE CENTRE IS MRS IRVINE THE HERDING OF THE ROUND UP WHO RODE
100 MILES IN ONE DAY AND SAVED A STAMPEDE UNHAIRED AGED 60 YEARS THE OTHER LADIES ARE
MRS AND THE MISSES MARION OF LETHBRIDGE



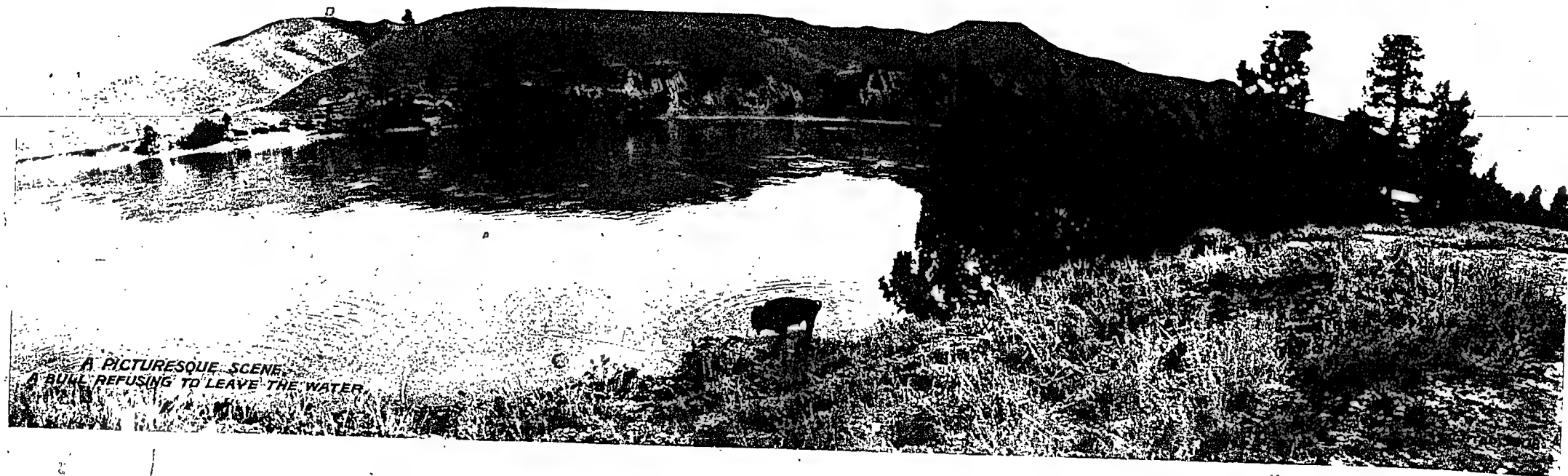
COOLING OFF
AFTER A THIRTY-MILE RUN

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BUFFALO BREAKING AWAY FROM THE ROUND-UP
AND FLEEING TO DEEP WATER.



A PICTURESQUE SCENE
A BULL REFUSING TO LEAVE THE WATER

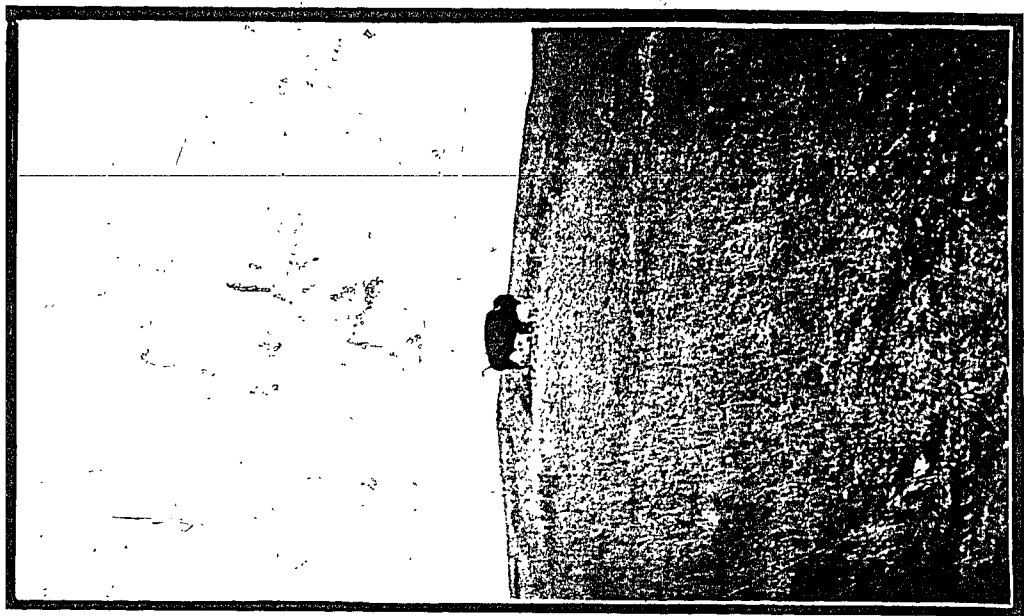


BUTTER BULLY KING.

SEP 1954



AN OLD BULL REFUSES TO COME OUT OF THE RIVER.





MICHEL PABLO AND HIS COWBOYS, NUMBERING TWENTY.
AFTER TWO WEEKS' ROUND-UP, RIDING FIFTY MILES A DAY, CORRALLED EIGHTY-ODD HEADS OF BUFFALO.

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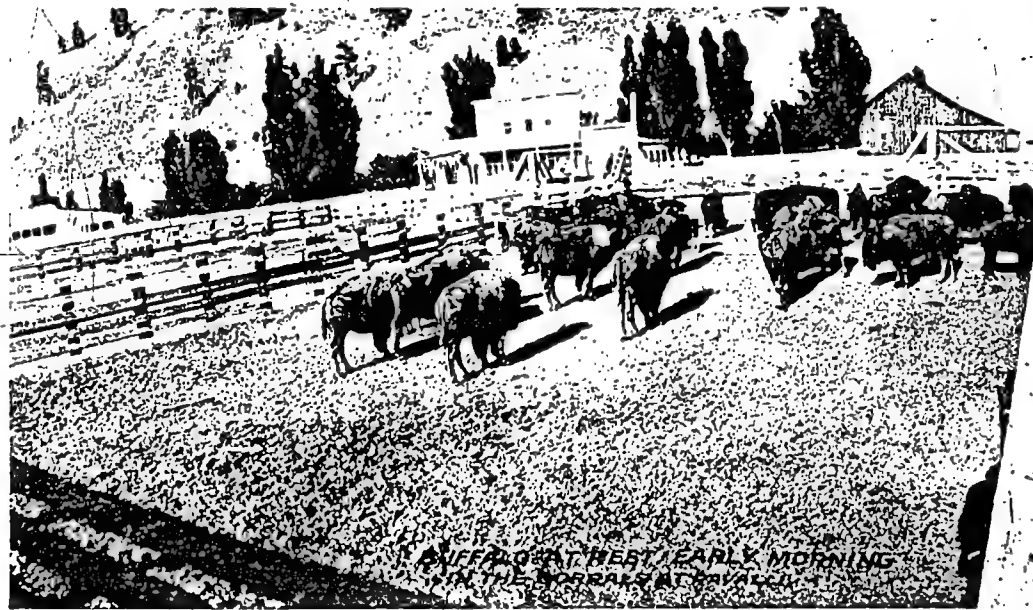


THEY WERE CALLED THE TWENTY-SEVEN
AND CALLED THEM ONE HUNDRED, THEY WERE NOT

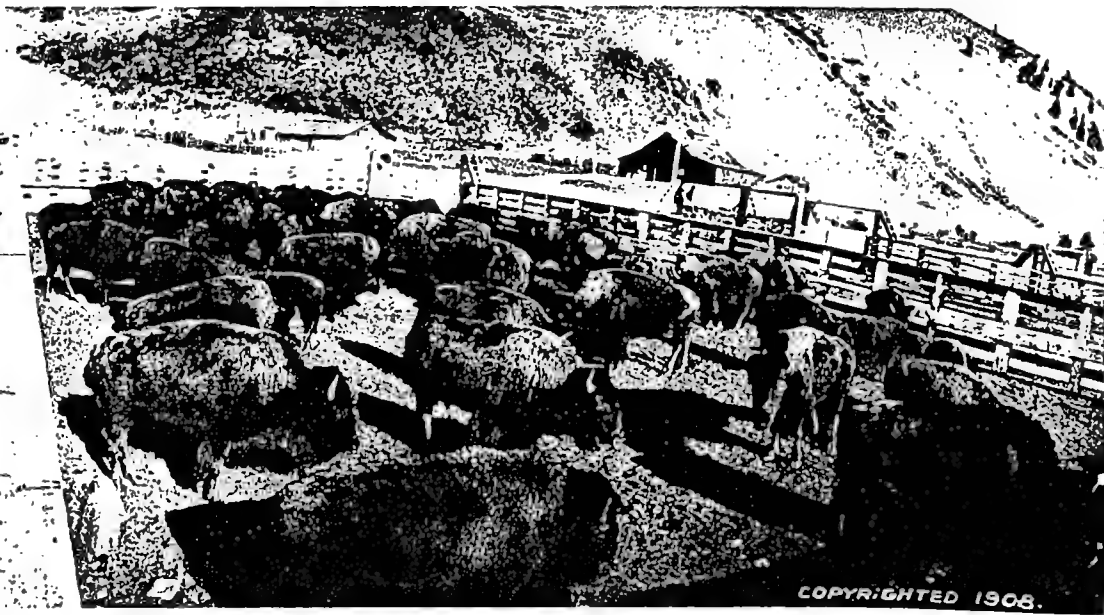


FIFTY HEAD OF BUFFALO AFTER A FORTY MILE RUN
GETTING CLOSE TO THE CORRAL

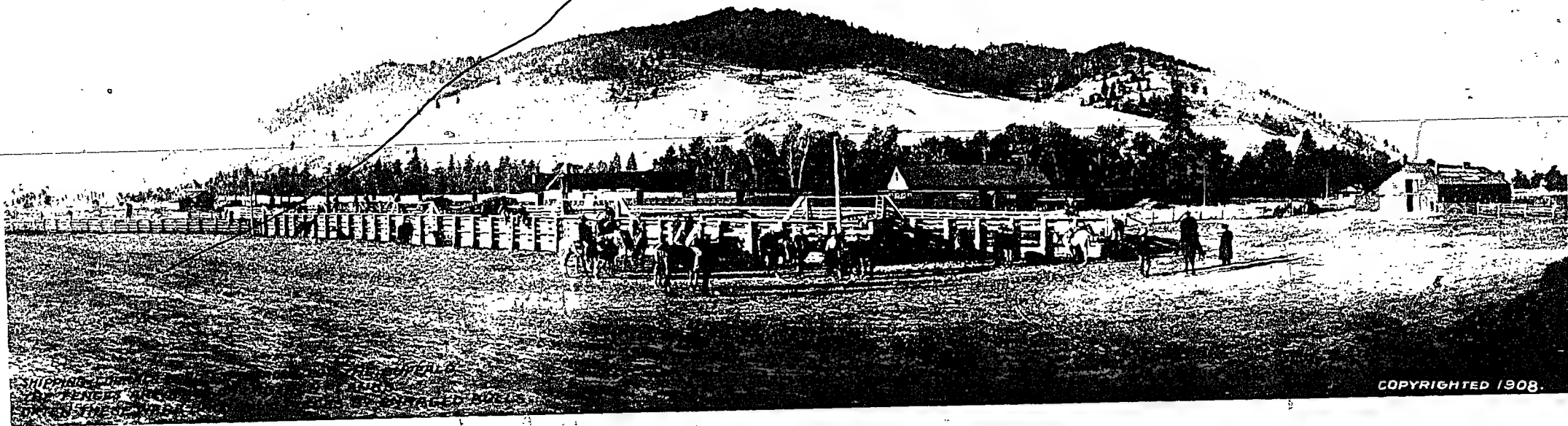
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BUFFALO AT REST EARLY MORNING
IN THE CORRALS AT CAVALCUT



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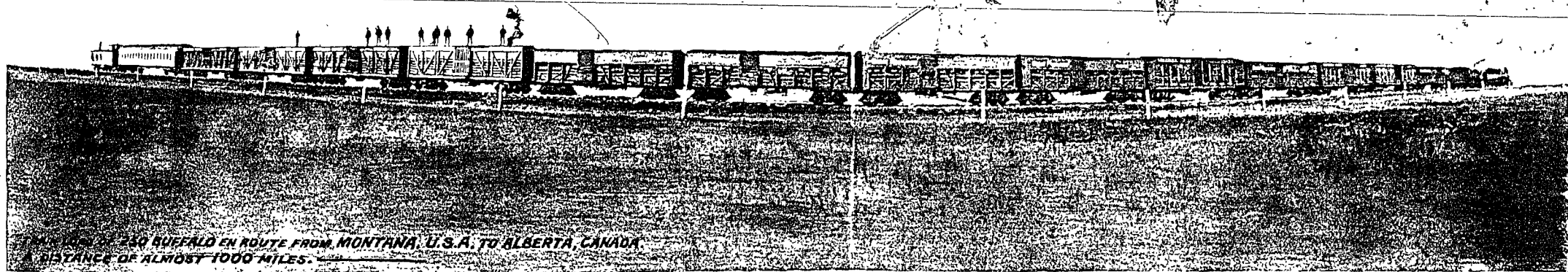


SHIPPING
FENCE
ON FIRE

THE
CITY
OF
MONTANA

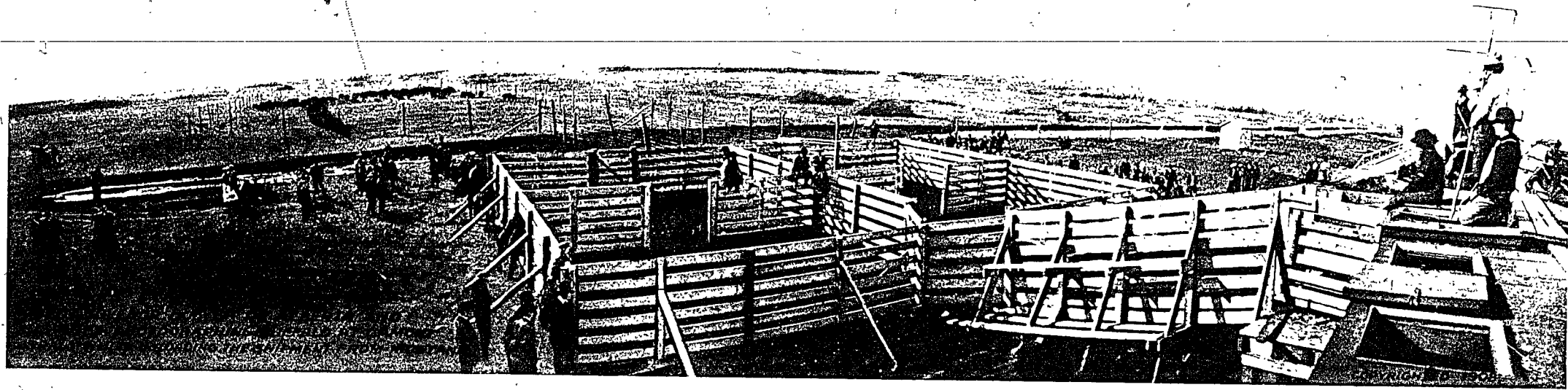
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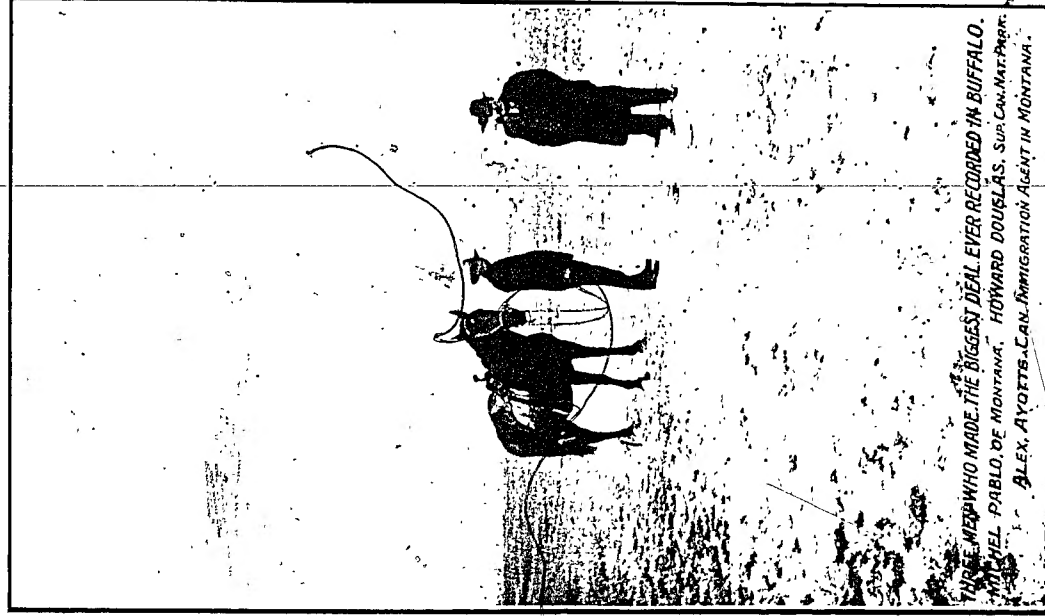
TRAIN NO. 230 BUFFALO EN ROUTE FROM MONTANA, U.S.A. TO ALBERTA, CANADA
A DISTANCE OF ALMOST 1000 MILES.



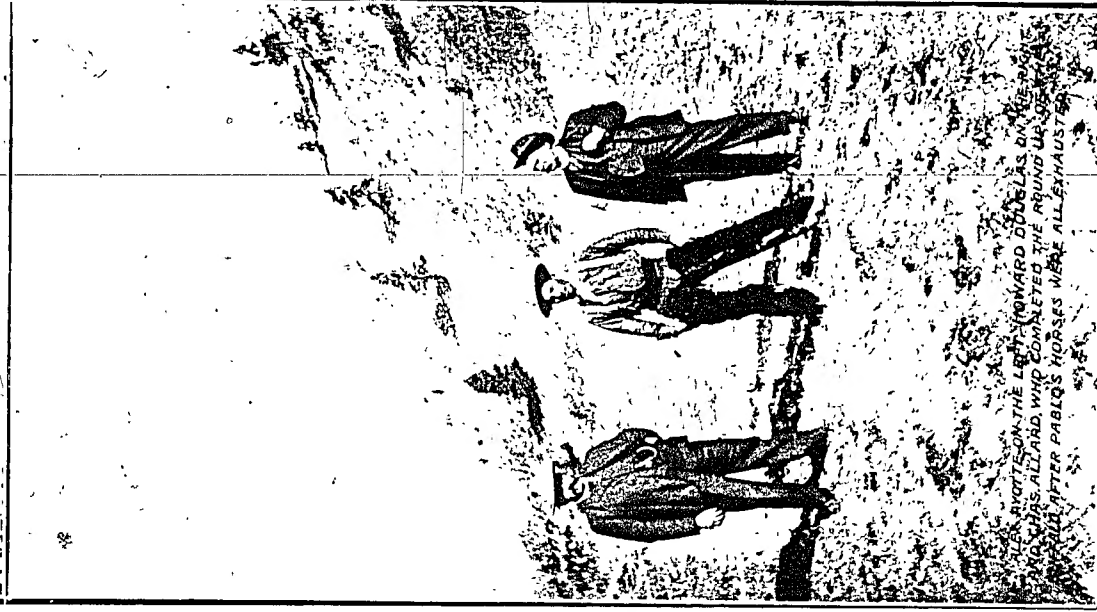




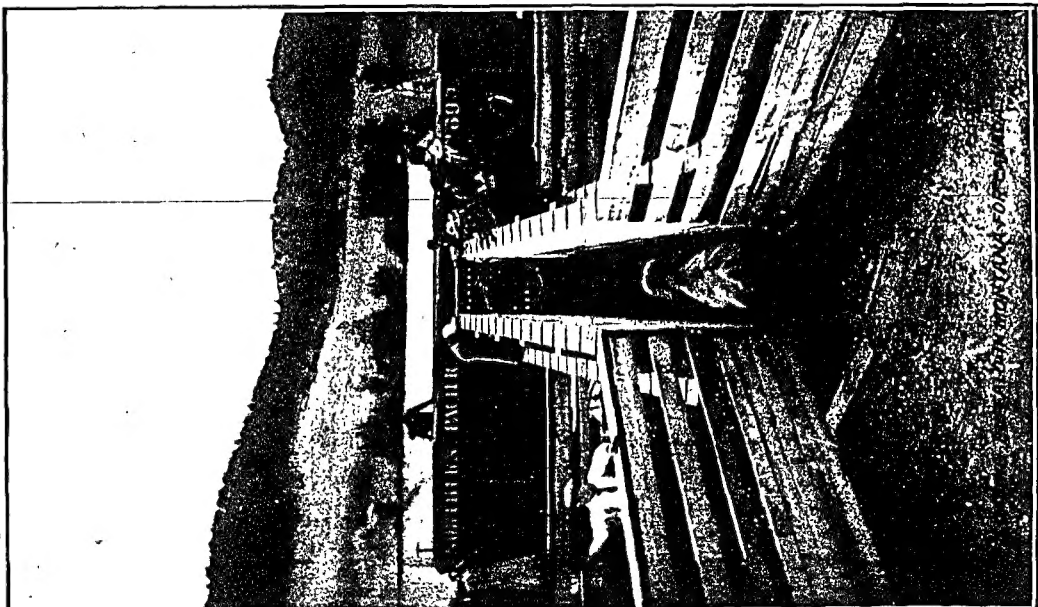
GOVERNMENT OFFICE AND
AT THE ROUTE 100 CAMP.

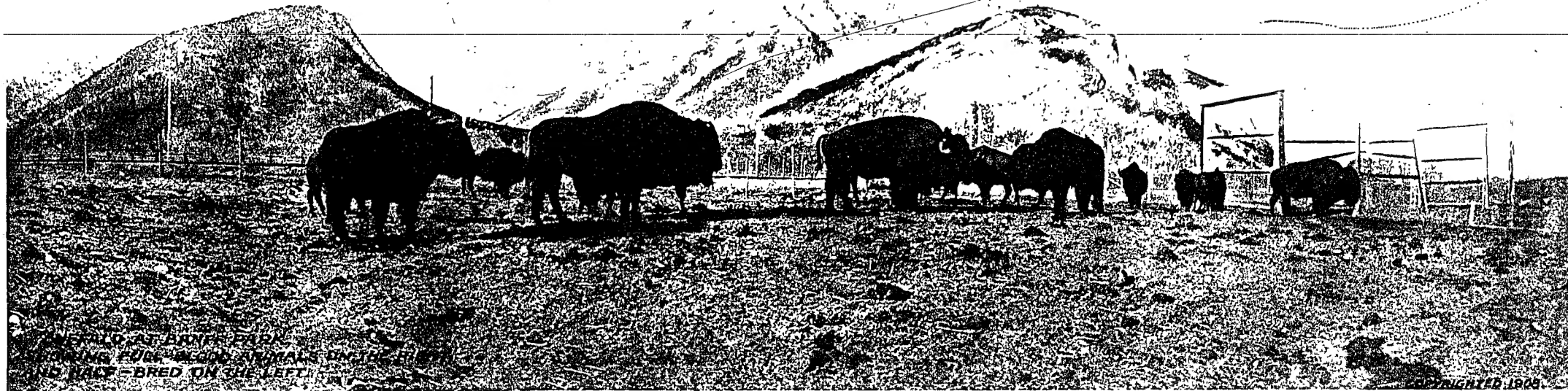


THREE MEN WHO MADE THE BIGGEST DEAL EVER RECORDED IN BUFFALO.
MICHAEL PABLO, DE MONTANA, HOWARD DOUGLAS, SUP. CAN. NAT. PARK,
ALEX. AYOTTS, CAN. IMMIGRATION AGENT IN MONTANA.



ALEX. AYOTTS ON THE LEFT, HOWARD DOUGLAS ON THE RIGHT,
AND CHAS. ALLARD, WHO COMPLETED THE ARROUND UP OF THE
WILD HORSES IN 1909, AFTER PABLO'S HORSES WERE ALL EXHAUSTED.



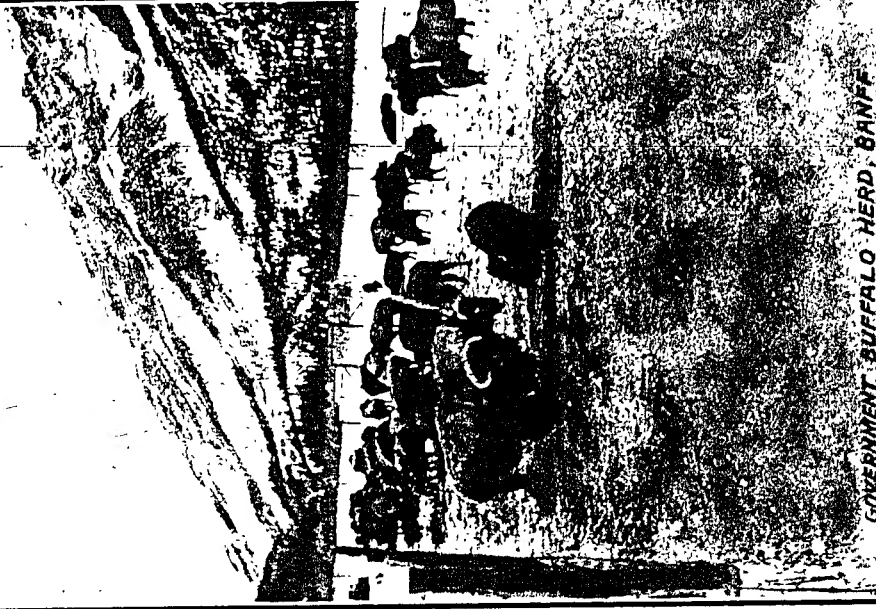


NEWLY BRED FROM
PURE BRED ANIMALS ON THE RIGHT
AND HALF-BRED ON THE LEFT

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BUFFALO BULL "SIR DONALD," ABOUT FIFTY YEARS
OLD, NOW AT BANFF, ALBERTA, SECURED FROM THE
SILVER HEIGHTS HERD AT WINNIPEG.



GOVERNMENT BUFFALO HERD, BANFF
ALBERTA